REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 97-123 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 48-67 and 86-96 have been canceled; and claims 97-123 have been added. No new matter has been added.

§102 Rejection of Claims 48-50, 52, and 54

In Section 3 of the Office Action of July 15, 2005 ("the Office Action"), claims 48-50, 52, and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Saito *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,221; hereinafter referred to as "Saito").

Claims 48-50, 52, and 54 have been canceled.

§103 Rejection of Claims 51, 55, 56, 62, 66, 67, 91, 95, and 96

In Section 6 of the Office Action, claims 51, 55, 56, 62, 66, 67, 91, 95, and 96 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Banks *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,747,979; hereinafter referred to as "Banks").

Claims 51, 55, 56, 62, 66, 67, 91, 95, and 96 have been canceled.

§103 Rejection of Claims 53, 64, and 93

In Section 7 of the Office Action, claims 53, 64, and 93 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Hulyalkar (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,261).

Claims 53, 64, and 93 have been canceled.

New Claims 97-123

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that "according to [the] prior art many resources are wasted, since all data packets that are available as RF-signals on the coaxial cable as well as all data packets that are present on any one of the IEEE1394 serial busses are distributed within the whole network." *Background of the Specification, page 3, lines 8-11.*

To address the above-stated shortcomings, embodiments of the present invention provide an interface link layer device that enables the interconnection of different networks to one distributed network while saving resources on said network. *Specification, page 3, lines 13-15.* For example, device claim 97 recites:

> Interface link layer device connected to a first data bus and via a transmission path to at least one other interface link layer device that is connected to a respective second data bus of a plurality of second data busses, comprising:
>
> *uplink means* to accept a data packet from the first data bus that has a predetermined destination or that has a channel number of a data channel that leads from the first data bus to one of said respective second data bus and to transmit it via said transmission path to said other interface link layer device serving said predetermined destination; and
>
> *downlink means* to output data packets received via said transmission path from one of said at least one other interface link layer device to a predetermined destination on the first data bus,
>
> wherein said uplink means comprise a first register that reflects destination identifiers which will be accepted, and
>
> wherein said destination identifier is a bus identifier of said respective second data bus and said first register comprises a bus enable register identifying said respective second data bus that is serving said predetermined destinations.

(emphasis added)

Accordingly, in one aspect of claim 97, the interface link layer device includes *uplink means* to accept a data packet from the first data bus and *downlink means* to output data packets received via the transmission path, wherein the uplink means comprise a first register that reflects destination identifiers which will be accepted, and wherein the destination identifier is a bus identifier of the respective second data bus and the first register comprises a bus enable register identifying the respective second data bus that is serving the predetermined destinations.

By contrast, cited prior art references fail to teach or suggest providing interface link layer device includes *uplink means* to accept a data packet from the first data bus and *downlink means* to output data packets received via the transmission path, wherein the uplink means comprise a first register that reflects destination identifiers which will be accepted, and wherein the destination identifier is a bus identifier of the respective second data bus and the first register comprises a bus enable register identifying the respective second data bus that is serving the predetermined destinations.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 97 should be allowable over the cited prior art references. Since independent claims 108, 109, 113, and 117 closely parallel, and recite substantially similar limitations as recited in, claim 97, claims 108, 109, 113, and 117 should also be allowable over the cited prior art references. Since claims 98-100, 101-107, 110-112, 114, 116, and 118-123 depend from one of claims 97, 108, 109, 113, and 117, claims 98-100, 101-107, 110-112, 114, 116, and 118-123 should also be allowable over the cited prior art references. Further, claims 97-123 are substantially similar to claims 3-25 and 27-30 that were indicated as being allowable in the Office Action of January 26, 2005.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 97-123 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 

Samuel S. Lee
Reg. No. 42,791
(858) 731-5000